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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6325**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1050

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 17, 2014

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 17, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Special Circumstances Hunting Safety Card.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Arnold L

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. Yoder

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 2<sup>nd</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
X FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes a special circumstances hunting safety card.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2014.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would be required to issue special circumstances hunting safety cards and provide the DNR's hunter education program to qualified individuals. The hunting safety card would require the card holders to attend the education program; they would not be required to successfully complete it. The bill specifies that an individual with special circumstances includes: (1) an individual that has a developmental disability; (2) a child determined to have a disability; and (3) an individual that has a permanent disability. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) would be required to establish the criteria for determining the qualifications for a special circumstances hunting safety card. This is an administrative process of the DNR and the NRC that should be accomplished within the level of resources available to both entities.

The DNR currently has a free special permit program for individuals with disabilities that prevent them from taking wildlife under regular hunting regulations. Special permits may be issued to individuals with a physical impairment resulting from injury or disease, excluding impairment due to normal aging. Permits allow those who cannot walk or have a serious walking limitation to hunt from a vehicle or to gain special vehicle access, etc.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** (Revised) The bill requires hunting safety card holders to obtain a valid hunting license. Revenue associated with the special circumstances hunting safety card would depend on the number of cards that might be issued and the types of hunting licenses the card holders would purchase.

Because safety card holders would purchase full-priced hunting licenses, the safety cardholders would be eligible to be included in the count for certified hunting licenses qualifying for federal wildlife apportionment funding, which was approximately \$33.67 for each certified license issued in 2013. The total amount of additional federal funds would depend on the number of safety cards that might be issued. The total amount of additional revenue would likely be small.

*Additional Information:* Current law requires all persons born after December 31, 1986, to successfully complete the DNR's hunter education program in order to obtain a hunting license. An exception to the education requirement allows for an apprentice license to be issued to a person who must be accompanied by a legal hunter over the age of 18. An apprentice license is issued using the same fee schedule as that used for regular hunting licenses. An individual may not purchase more than three apprentice hunting licenses of any type during the individual's lifetime.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR; NRC.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DNR, *Indiana Hunting & Trapping Guide, 2013-2014 Regulations Guide*.

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